

OSCE
Annual Security Review Conference
19 – 20 June 2007
Vienna, Austria

United States Intervention
Presented by
Mr. Daniel Fata
19 June 2007

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you. Let me start by saying I enjoyed listening to our Armenian colleague and support his calls for having the OSCE do more than just list threats and challenges. And, it was encouraging to hear from our Swiss colleague the range of activities the Swiss government has undertaken, to bring life on a national basis to some of the statements that have been taken here in Vienna.

While this annual meeting offers us an opportunity to exchange views on the numerous threats to security and stability in the twenty-first century, this conference, more importantly, provides us with an opportunity to focus on finding *solutions* to meet the new challenges we face today, both individually and collectively. Along that vein, I will attempt to propose a few ideas which the OSCE might consider undertaking during the next years' work.

A few weeks ago, Estonia experienced one of these new challenges when it was struck by a significant cyber disruption. This event reminds us that our reliance on the Internet has created new security vulnerabilities. The economies of the modern world are heavily dependent on electronic or cyber systems for communications, cargo, and passenger transportation, power and energy distribution and banking, to name a few of the most critical. This vulnerability has led to new approaches to security that have become a part of the fabric of our society and represent a continuing challenge to be addressed.

In fact, just last week, the NATO defense ministers agreed to task the Alliance military planners to look at what NATO can do with regard to defining, addressing, and possibly defending against this threat. We here should also think about what our collective role should be in addressing this kind of threat.

The risk of cross-border conflict between nation states on a linear battlefield where uniformed armies, navies and air forces face each other has been thankfully reduced. This new reality has allowed the United States to dramatically reduce the combat power we station in Europe. And while we've been able to achieve these great force reductions, let me be clear, our commitment to European security has not diminished and our commitment to trans-Atlantic security rests on the foundation of indivisibility. The United States will continue to be an active part of all the security discussions, whether they be conventional or asymmetric.

The security architecture put in place by visionary leaders of the recent past has been indispensable in building the confidence and sense of security throughout Europe. In fact, just last week, this hall was the site for the Extraordinary Conference of the CFE treaty, convened at the request of the Russian Federation to discuss one of these visionary architectures I just referred.

As Secretary Gates said last week, the CFE treaty remains a cornerstone of European security. The United States remains committed to the CFE treaty and is prepared to move to ratify the Adapted CFE as soon as the troops stationed in Georgia and Moldova, against the wishes of these governments, have been removed.

As senior U.S. officials have repeatedly said, we believe Russian concerns should be heard. And that Allies should work collectively to consider the best ways to address Russia's concerns. I believe the first steps on this path were taken last week at the Extraordinary Conference. To be clear, we still need the CFE and we urge all parties to the treaty to continue to abide by it. The moment that any party to the treaty stops implementing its provisions, the security of Europe will be diminished.

The new security environment requires new approaches. One constant refrain heard in legislative halls of the United States and Europe, in international security conferences, and at meetings of multi-lateral organizations like the OSCE and NATO, is that there are no simple military solutions to our fight against international terrorism. The threat of terrorism and actions of terrorists have not lessened in recent years. All of the countries represented here are vulnerable to terrorist attacks, because we believe and defend our democratic way of life and the freedoms that come with it. All of which are completely abhorrent to Al Qaeda and its associated terrorist groups.

Because of this, the OSCE should intensify its focus on the threat of terrorism and consider real actionable initiatives that can reduce the threat of terrorism. We should attach continued priority that all the OSCE participating States adopt the UN counter terrorism conventions and then ensure their full implementation.

As has been mentioned before, terrorists and other criminals are heavily dependent on illegal trafficking in money, people, narcotics and weapons, including weapons of mass destruction. The OSCE border security concept can provide an excellent framework in this area. This focus should not be confined to land borders; air and sea trafficking are equally important. The maritime domain is one of the last of the ungoverned domains with serious security implications.

The initiative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the Central Asian states to increase OSCE activities on border security in that region deserves the strong support of this conference. Moreover, the request for assistance and border security from the partner State of Afghanistan also deserves urgent attention. Success of the international community in supporting Afghan President Karzai is essential to the security of Europe.

Again, if I may refer to last week's events at NATO, Secretary of Defense Gates made a strong plea as did Afghan Defense Minister Wardak, asking for more Army and police trainers to assist in the development of the Afghan National Security Forces as well as the border security forces. It should be in all our interests to see Afghanistan succeed and be able to provide for its own security.

Therefore, I encourage all OSCE members to consider what they can do to help contribute to Afghanistan's National Security Force development.

Finally, a core of the national security of the United States is to prevent our enemies from threatening us, our allies and friends with weapons of mass destruction. We should take note of the increasing missile delivery capabilities from various quarters of the world. The United States is committed to defending its allies in Europe by developing the capabilities to counter this delivery threat with modern missile defense systems. I look forward to discussing this issue in more detail tomorrow, Mr. Chairman.

Finally, Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates, the topic of an OSCE strategy to address threats to security and stability in the twenty-first century leaves us with a broad agenda for this conference. We won't solve everything today, but this annual security review conference should give impetus to OSCE work in the coming months. The agenda I've laid out includes keeping what we already have that works well, such as CFE, Open Skies and the Vienna Document, but also discussing common solutions to address the newer threats. We should agree on furthering practical steps against terrorist threats, improving border security programs – especially in Central Asia, seriously reviewing possible OSCE contributions to the international community's efforts in Afghanistan, enhancing Maritime Domain cooperation, defining energy security and cooperation, looking at critical infrastructure vulnerabilities – including cyber security and infrastructure security, and engaging in a serious discussion about missile defense.

I look forward to engaging with other delegations during the course of this conference.

Thank you.